

because in the law we have an expiring tax credit for wind. Not only that, but to do it for 1 year really doesn't help that much. People are unwilling to lend money on a 1-year tax credit. It is possible this project may be canceled due to the uncertain nature of the production tax credit for wind energy. This would be a terrible disappointment. Within 3 to 5 years they can produce enough electricity by wind to supply energy to 260,000 people. That is a lot of people. That would be that much less coal we would have to burn, or natural gas, or fuel oil.

The Department of Energy estimates that we could increase our geothermal energy production almost ten fold, supplying ten percent of the energy needs of the West, and expand wind energy production to serve the electricity needs of ten million homes.

The Nevada Public Utilities Commission estimates 500 megawatts of wind energy and 500 megawatts of geothermal should be online in the state by 2013, supplying the energy needs of one million Nevadans. That is 1,000 megawatts.

But we need a permanent production tax credit to make these estimates a reality.

The bill Senator SMITH and I have introduced this afternoon allows for co-production credits to encourage blending of renewable energy with traditional fuels and provides a credit for renewable facilities on native American and native Alaskan lands.

It also provides production incentives to not-for-profit public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives, which serve 25 percent of the nation's power customers, by allowing them to transfer of their credits to taxable entities.

Fossil fuel plants pump over 11 million tons of pollutants into our air each year. Eleven million tons—it is hard to comprehend that—every year. What we are doing is building more powerplants to pump more pollution into the air. By including landfill gas in this legislation, we systematically reduce the largest single human source of methane emissions in the United States, effectively eliminating the greenhouse gas equivalent of 233 million tons of carbon dioxide. These figures are staggering, but they are realistic.

There is a compelling need for our legislation because the existing production tax credit for electricity produced from wind energy and closed-loop biomass renewable resources expires at the end of this year.

In the past year alone, \$1.3 billion in capital investment in wind energy projects has been made in the U.S.

As I indicated, at the Nevada Test Site, a new wind farm will provide 260 megawatts to meet the needs of 260,000 people.

Growing renewable energy industries in the U.S. will also help provide growing employment opportunities in the U.S., and help U.S. renewable technologies compete in world markets.

In States like Nevada, expanded renewable energy production will provide jobs in rural areas—areas that have been largely left out of America's recent economic boom during the past several years. Rural Nevada hasn't done well at all. Renewable energy is poised to make major contributions to our Nation's energy needs over the next decade.

As fantastic as it sounds, enough sunlight falls on a 100-mile-by-100-mile area of southern Nevada that, if covered with solar panels, could power the entire Nation.

I am proud to say that Nevada has adopted the most aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standard in the nation, requiring that 5 percent of the state's electricity needs be met by renewable energy resources in 2003, which then grows to 15 percent by 2013.

We are mandating in the State of Nevada that 15 percent of the energy resources must be produced by alternative energy. That is really a step forward, and I applaud the Nevada State Legislature.

The citizens of Nevada deserve a national energy strategy that ensures their economic well being and security, and provides for a secure quality of life. That should also apply to the whole United States.

Our legislation encourages the use of renewable energy and signals America's long-term commitment to clean energy, a healthy environment, and energy independence.

Renewable energy—as an alternative and successor to traditional energy sources—is a common sense way to ensure the American people have a reliable source of power at an affordable price.

The United States needs to move away from its dependence on fossil fuels that pollute the environment and undermine our national security interests and balance of trade.

We must accept this commitment for the energy security of the U.S., for the protection of our environment, and for the health and security of the American people.

I hope this legislation is allowed to move forward as quickly as possible.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1568. A bill to prevent cyberterrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Cyberterrorism Prevention Act of 2001, an important piece of legislation to prevent terrorists from hijacking our computer system to wreak havoc with our essential infrastructure.

This bill provides law enforcement with critical tools to combat cyberterrorism. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. REED, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1570. A bill to provide the Secretary of Education with specific waiver authority to respond to conditions in the national emergency declared by the President on September 14, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, every American is struggling to cope with the terrorist attacks of September 11 and subsequent events. Among those on the front lines in addressing these disasters are our military Reservists and members of our National Guard. Not only are these men and women grappling with the consequences of the catastrophe and the rigors of being mobilized for active duty, but many of them are also forced to worry about leaving college in the middle of their courses and making continued payments on their student loans. Will their tuition be reimbursed for courses that are interrupted? How will they keep up with their student loan payments while they are on active duty?

In my State of Maine, more than 10 percent of our National Guard members are making payments on their student loans and are faced with these very questions. As these Guard members and Reservists prepare to serve their country, the least we can do is alleviate their concerns about making payments on their student loans while they are on active duty.

Some of the families directly affected by the tragedies of September 11 are facing similar dilemmas. The dislocation in New York City and elsewhere caused by the terrorist attacks has jeopardized the ability of some individuals to meet their payment schedules on their student loans.

Lending institutions located in New York City are encountering yet another set of difficulties. A number of lenders are headquartered within a few blocks of ground zero. They, understandably, have been unable to meet the due diligence requirements set forth by the Department of Education. Several firms, in fact, were not even able to access their office buildings for many days after the attacks, let alone meet filing deadlines.

With those Guard members, Reservists, affected families, and lending institutions in mind, I am pleased today to introduce the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001. My colleagues, Senators GREGG, REED, WARNER, and SESSIONS, as well as the Presiding Officer, Senator JOHNSON, whose support and leadership I value greatly, have signed on as original cosponsors. The HEROS Act grants the Secretary of Education specific waiver authority under the Higher Education Act to provide relief to those affected by the recent attacks on America. The Secretary would be empowered to assist Reservists and Guard members who are being called up for active duty as well as others directly affected by the attacks.

The Secretary's new authority would be limited to ensuring that military